

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-9 have been examined in the current application. Claims 1-3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Masuda (U.S. 6,683,265, hereafter "Masuda"). Claims 4-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, as well as any intervening claim.

By this Amendment, Applicants are amending claims 2-6 and 9, and are canceling claim 1.

Preliminary Matters

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the anticipation rejection of claims 1-3 and 9 over Kawaguchi et al. (U.S. 6,603,086).

Applicants also thank the Examiner for withdrawing the objection to the drawings.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 4-8 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants hereby rewrite claims 4-6 in independent form. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4-6 are immediately allowable. Claims 2, 3 and 9 have been amended to be dependent from claim 4, and, along with claims 7 and 8, are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 4.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

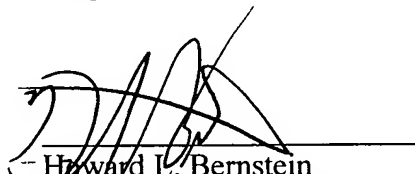
Amendment under 37 C.F.R § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/527,399

Attorney Docket No. Q86775

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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